

Amendment to 09/710183 dated 6 January 2005
Responsive to Office Action Mailed 6 October 2004

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REMARKS

Claims 1- 44 are pending after this amendment.

The Specification has been amended to correct a typographical error.

The drawings have been amended to correct typographical errors.

The amendments to the Specification and drawings introduce no new subject matter.

The claims have been amended for clarity and to correct typographical errors. The Amended claims are submitted to comply with the requirements of 35 USC §112.

The Office Action cites Gormish (US 5,659,631) in relation to claims 1 and 39. As understood, Gormish teaches dividing an image into color planes. Each color plane identifies pixels in the image that have a specific color corresponding to the color plane.

Claims 1 and 39 of the present application recite "dividing the image into a plurality of tiles" and, for each tile "identifying the colors represented in the tile". The Gormish color planes are not tiles. The squares shown in Fig. 1 of Gormish are individual pixels, not tiles (see col. 4, ln. 38). Even if the Gormish color planes are equated with "tiles", Gormish fails to teach or suggest, after dividing the image into tiles, for each tile, "identifying the colors represented in the tile" as recited in claims 1 and 39. There is no reason for Gormish to provide this feature because each of the Gormish color planes corresponds to only one color.

Further, claims 1 and 39 recite "comparing the required number of masks with a threshold number of masks" and "if the required number of masks is less than the threshold number of masks, generating computer-readable instructions to represent the tile using one or more of the techniques selected from a group consisting of fills and masks". The Applicant submits that Gormish fails to teach or suggest these features in the context of claim 1 or 39.

Gormish does not teach generating computer-readable instructions to represent the tile using one or more of the techniques selected from a group consisting of fills and masks in the case that the required number of masks is less than the threshold number of masks, as claimed. Gormish teaches processing each image-sized color plane to determine pixel color values (as described above). Gormish teaches setting a threshold limit on the number of color planes or pixels to be processed. When this threshold is reached Gormish teaches that it is

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advantageous to switch to a method based on dividing remaining image pixels among bit planes.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant submits that claims 1 and 39, and the claims that depend from claims 1 and 39 patentably distinguish Gormish.

The Applicant notes that this application claims priority from application No. 60/164,666 filed on 9 November, 1999. This is prior to the 18 May 2000 filing date of Hondl et al. In any event, as noted above, Gormish fails to disclose or suggest "dividing the image into a plurality of tiles" and, for each tile, "identifying the colors represented in the tile". Hondl et al. fail to remedy this deficiency. Therefore, claims 37, 38 and 44 are submitted to patentably distinguish the combination of Gormish and Hondl et al.

The Applicant submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1- 44 in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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